THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, July 14, 1806.

HUMOUROUS ANECDOTE *of an* ENGLISH SAILOR.

IN the year 1756, Admiral Watson having sailed with his squadron from Fort St. David to the assistance of Calcutta, stopped at Mayapore, on the banks of the Ganges, where the enemy had a place of considerable strength, called Bougee Fort, which it was necessary to secure before he proceeded on the expedition. The action began with a brisk cannonade from the squadron, which soon silenced the cannon of the fort; but the garrison not offering to surrender, it was determined that Colonel Clive should endeavour to take it by assault. For this purpose, at five in the evening, the admiral landed an officer, and about 40 sailors from each ship, under the command of Captain King, to assist the colonel in storming the fort, which he intended doing just before day-light, under the cover of two twenty-four pounders, close to the ditch. In the mean time the colonel had given directions that the whole army, (the necessary guards excepted,) and the detachments from the ships, should rest on the ground, in order to recover themselves as much as possible from the great fatigues they had undergone in the preceding day's service.

All was now quiet in the camp: those on board the ships, that lay at their anchors at a small distance from the shore, had entertained thoughts of making use of this interval to refresh themselves also with an hour or two of sleep; when suddenly a loud and universal acclamation was heard from the shore, and soon after an account was brought to the admiral that the fort was taken by storm. This was a joyful piece of news, and the more so as it was quite unexpected; but when the particular circumstances of this success were related, their exultation was diminished, because the discipline so indispensibly neces-

sary in all naval exploits, had been entirely disregarded in the present instance; and therefore could not help looking upon the person who had the principal hand in this victory, rather as an object of chastisement than applause.

The case was this:—During the tranquil state of the camp, one Strahan, a common sailor, belonging to the Kent, having just received his allowance of grog, found his spirits too much elated to think of taking any rest; he therefore strayed by himself towards the fort, and imperceptibly got under the walls. Having advanced thus far without interruption, he took it into his head to scale at a breach that had been made by the cannon of the ships; and having fortunately reached the bastion, he there discovered several Moors sitting upon the platform, at whom he flourished his cutlass, and then fired his pistol, and having given three loud huzzas, cried out, "the place is mine." The Moorish soldiers immediately attacked him, and he defended himself with incredible resolution, but in the rencounter had the misfortune to have the blade of his cutlass cut in two, about a foot from the hilt. This, however, did not happen until he was warmly supported by two or three other sailors who had accidentally straggled to the same part of the fort, on which the other had mounted; they hearing Strahan's cries, immediately scaled the breach likewise; and with their triumphant sound, roused the whole army, who, taking the alarm, presently fell on pell mell, without order and without discipline, following the example of the sailors.

This attack, though made in such confusion, had no ill consequence but the death of Captain Campbell, who was unfortunately killed by a musket ball from one of our own pieces in the general confusion. Captain Coote commanded the fort for that night, and at day-break the fort saluted the admiral. We took in the fort eighteen cannon, and forty barrels of powder.

Strahan, the hero of this adventurous action, was soon brought before the admiral, who, notwithstanding the success that had attended it, thought it necessary to shew himself displeased with a measure in which the want of all naval discipline so notoriously appeared. He therefore angrily enquired into the desperate step which he had taken, by saying, "Strahan, what is this that you have been doing?" The sailor, after having made his bow, scratched his head, and with one hand twirling his hat on the other, replied, "Why, to be sure, Sir, it was I who took the fort; but I hope, your honour, as how there was no harm in it." The admiral with difficulty restrained from smiling at the simplicity of Strahan's answer; and having expatiated largely on the fatal consequences that might have attended his irregular conduct, with a severe rebuke dismissed him; but not before he had given Strahan some distant hints

that

that at a proper opportunity he would be certainly punished for his temerity. Strahan amazed to find himself blamed where he expected praise, had no sooner gone from the admiral's cabin, than he muttered to himself, " If I am flogged for this here action, I will never take another fort by myself as long as I live, by God."

The novelty of the case, the success of the enterprize, and the courageous spirit which he had displayed, pleaded strongly with the admiral in behalf of the offender; and at the same time the discipline of the service required he should shew him outwardly some marks of his displeasure: this the admiral did for some little time, but afterwards, at the intercession of some officers, which intercession the admiral himself had prompted them to make, he most readily pardoned him: but unfortunately for this brave fellow, the whole tenor of his conduct was so very irregular, both before and after the storming of the fort, that it was impossible for the admiral to advance him from his old station to any higher rank, how strongly soever his inclinations led him to wish it.

He afterwards served in Admiral Pocock's engagement in the West Indies, and in consequence of a wound he received in one them, he is become a pensioner to the chest of Chatham. At present he acts as a sailor in one of the guard ships at Portsmouth, and says that his highest ambition is " to be made cook of one of his majesty's capital ships."

Extracts from the Reports of the Committee for relieving the Distresses in Germany.

(Concluded from Page 526.)

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Bruxner, dated Vienna, February 11, 1806.

AFTER acknowledging the receipt of the money which had been remitted to him from this committee, Mr. B. thus continues: " The Rev. Superintendent Hilchinbach, Mr. Superintendent Vashler, and myself, were thereby enabled to act according to the intention and rules laid down by the generous benefactors; and we shall now continue with all possible activity to alleviate the distresses, which have been greatly increased by the excesses committed by the three different classes of military, as well as the extreme dearness of all kinds of provisions, by which work-people are prevented from procuring even the most necessary subsistence. By the warm moist weather, as well as the bad interment of many dead bodies, an epidemic disease has been generated, which daily ex-

tends its ravages, and to which many have fallen victims. In Moravia its effects are still more deplorable."

From the preceding accounts the compassionate reader cannot but perceive that pestilential disorders have in many places been added to the horrors of famine. Of the mortality thus occasioned, some faint idea may be conceived, when the committee state from very recent information that, at Canstadt in Swabia, scarcely a single house escaped; in which there were not fewer than from four to six persons languishing under the accumulated pressure of remediless want and contagious disease. Of that want some idea may likewise be formed, when it is added that in the same place one man, who was possessed of some property, but who could by no means be accounted opulent, had in the compass of four months not less than two thousand seven hundred soldiers quartered upon him!!!

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Breitenstein, to the Rev. Mr. Segelken, in London, dated Hombourg von der Hoehe, March 11, 1806.

"At the first outset of the French army, I hoped from the direction which the troops took, that we should for this time escape the dreadful scourge of war: but it is more than six weeks since our country, already exhausted and impoverished by the former destructive war, was a second time over-run by the French. Since that time our little town, and the country belonging to it, suffers in the extreme, and in proportion, much more than the adjacent parts. Besides the great number of officers and privates, we have to maintain a general and his staff; which require very large sums to be raised by the suffering inhabitants. No persons whatever are exempt from having soldiers quartered in their houses: and however burthensome it is to me that I am obliged constantly to maintain officers, still there are many that feel it more severely than I do: but what grieves my heart beyond description is, to see the extreme misery of those, who had not even bread enough in time of peace, and who are now obliged to provide every day for several soldiers."

Extract of a Letter from Professor Timæus, to the Rev. Mr. Kueper, dated Lunenburg, February 28, 1806.

"Every day our public calamity presses more heavily on us. For these two days past 2000 Prussians have been quartered in this city alone; and they will soon leave us nothing to eat. One fourth of the families here, who keep their own houses, are so far ruined, that they are now obliged to pawn every thing, in order to buy some corn, to satiate the sons of Mars: professional men, of the lowest class, have to provide

for

for two or three soldiers daily, and only receive about one penny and three farthings for each. How this will end, I do not know.——Woe to that country, where the bayonet governs!"

Extract from the General Remarks of Privy Counsellor Von Meding, Member of the Hanoverian Committee, relative to the Distresses of the Hanoverians, dated February 21, 1806.

After detailing the systematic devastations committed by the French, too minutely to admit of insertion in the present address, M. von Meding continues as follows:

"Such alas! is the situation of so many thousands of Hanoverians. Such the true history of the gradual ruin of our country; in which, during three years of continual extortions and losses, amounting (when compared with our small resources) to an almost incredible sum, many honest parents have literally died with grief and hunger, without leaving any thing to support their families. So great and boundless, indeed, was the distress even in many families, who never had reason to apprehend that they should sink to such a depth of misery, that in many instances the French soldiers themselves petitioned their officers for other quarters; "Because," said they, "we cannot endure any longer to witness the misery of our landlords, and hear the cries and lamentations of starving children, who come to us begging for bread."

"Every kind of commercial business was entirely put a stop to. Under the pretence of being attentive to English goods, the French gens d'armes and commissaries, examined every thing that came from abroad; no foreign merchants, therefore, would run the risk of sending even German wares through any part of the country. The general and multifarious calamities increased every day, and were the more woefully felt, as the harvests in these very times proved so scanty. The country, even in times of peace, does not produce corn sufficient for the inhabitants. But now the number of hostile, or friendly guests, who successively came on us, was so great, that in many districts, from 20 to 40 soldiers were quartered on a single peasant. The produce of each harvest was therefore consumed, before the in-gathering of it had scarcely been finished, and nothing was left either for the winter, or to furnish seed for the next sowing.

"Besides these external miseries which have overspread our country, its occupation by the French has produced in some places moral evils, which every patriot must consider as still more calamitous, and more difficult to be removed and redressed. Seduction and distress have banished modesty and chastity from the hearts of many females among the lower

classes,

classes, and have inveigled them into licentious and dissolute conduct: while, on the other hand, the example and success of a nation in which infidelity so much prevails, have operated to the increase of coolness and indifference respecting religion."

Melancholy as this last statement is, the result of M. von Meding's general inquiries, the committee with pleasure observe, that in many communities of the peasantry, during the late unhappy years, dissipation and lewdness have rather abated than increased. "The great aversion," says the Rev. Abbot Salfeld, "which many of our country people felt against the foreign nation that had seized upon the country, effectually excluded all familiar intercourse. Many fathers and brothers have been known severely to threaten, and even chastise their daughters and sisters, who would merely but converse in a friendly manner with any Frenchmen. It cannot, however, be denied that, in some of the most distressed places, there were even married women, who submitted to the will of their foreign guests, in order to obtain their commiseration and indulgence, for not being sufficiently able to serve their tables! **** But, after all, it may be credited, that most of the Hanoverian females, both in the principal cities and also in small villages, have always firmly withstood the French arts of seduction, and have preserved unblemished their honour and their innocence."

Extract of a Letter from Mr. John Haupter, a Protestant Schoolmaster in Austria, dated Ibenstein, January 15, 1806.

"Most likely you have long since heard of the present situation of Austria, and the dreadful consequences of the late disastrous war. Yet I cannot forbear relating what happened to us from the hostile invasion. On the 2d of November, when the advanced guard of the enemy reached our district, a light-horseman entered our room, quite drunken; he threatened to set our barn on fire; he desisted, however, at my earnest entreaties, and perhaps moved by the lamentable cries of my six poor children. He then demanded oats for his horse; I had none, but was compelled immediately to purchase some, and a sack with them. Then he asked for eggs; my poor wife, who had saved about two dozen for the winter, went directly and fetched them all. Then he required 24 florins. After I had expostulated with him in vain, I emptied my pocket. But when he saw the copper pieces, he became quite enraged, threw it from him, saying that would not do for a Frenchman. Now my wife fetched a little bag, which contained about four florins in copper, and a few new silver pieces. When he declared that was all nothing, my wife fetched another bag of about the same value. He was still dissatisfied, so at last she brought a

little box, in which there was all the remainder of our money, and entreated him with tears and unlifted hands—that this was our all. Finding he could extort no more, he used the most dreadful expressions, even so far as to threaten to commit horrid personal injury to my wife. What our feelings were on this distressing occasion may easier be conceived than expressed. But when our necessity was the greatest, the help of the Almighty was nearest. For quite at a sudden, this monster marched off with his plunder, and we saw him no more. Soon afterwards nine soldiers paid us a visit, but they behaved much better, being contented with a loaf of bread. To all these calamities of war, family afflictions were added. My wife fell sick, and all my six children. For two months she could wear neither shoes nor stockings; her body was all over covered with spots, so that she had the appearance of a leper. A little boy of mine got the small-pox in such a violent degree, that he became quite blind, and, after the most dreadful sufferings, expired. My eldest girl is still confined to her bed, and endures such excruciating pains, that her woeful cries are heard even at a great distance."

Extract of a Letter from Lusatia, dated March 13, 1806.

"The last accounts, received here from Moravia, especially from that part where the war raged, are dreadful. Great mortality prevails. It is said that above twelve thousand persons have died there in a short time, of the prevailing pestilential fever. It began among the military, from whom it afterwards spread among the inhabitants of the towns and villages."

To the liberal attention of a British public, the committee now leave the consideration of these details; convinced, that no individuals, who are sensible of the inestimable privileges and comforts they enjoy, will withhold their mite. So shall the blessings of thousands that were ready to perish come upon them. The sum of 12,280l. has been lodged at various places on the continent, and the funds being now almost exhausted, in consequence of the repeated and extensive claims of our suffering brethren, donations will be gratefully received by the respective members of the committee in London.

To the Editor of the Weekly Entertainer.

A Hint to the Humane and Benevolent, throughout this Kingdom.

THE reports of the committee for the relief of the distresses in Germany, which have been laid before the public, are sufficient

ficient to impress every feeling mind; and not only in the capital of our nation, but in every county, town, and neighbourhood, are minds susceptible and ready to contribute (though not opulent) according to their ability; and a small sum from many would accumulate to something considerable. This is to request that a few persons of influence in their respective towns would imitate the example of those who first met in London, and call on their friends in their different circles, to come forward as they may be disposed. For want of persons thus to take the lead, may not opportunities be lost almost incalculable? this is obvious, had not the committee begun in London and opened the way, what has been consequent (perhaps beyond their expectation, though not answerable to the emergency), would not have followed.

In addition to the facts related by the committee, it will only be necessary, it is hoped, to stimulate the public to exert their ability, to point in the present case to the word of God, his authority and sacred example, which I hope in this land will always be adverted to, by all who desire its preservation and prosperity. "To do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifice God is well pleased." "The liberal man deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things he shall stand." "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and the distressed; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble; the Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth, and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness."

And as we feel our obligation to him, who having all power in Heaven and earth, has preserved us from such accumulated distress! would we express our gratitude, and find encreasing confidence in the continuance of his love to us, and our posterity, shall we not collectively, as a nation, with one heart, conform to his word, and imitate his example, who are called by his name? and if we would be acknowledged by him at the last, while the prayers of the relieved from the deepest distress may find access to him for his blessing on us and our children, and for his continued protection!

A FRIEND TO THE DISTRESSED.

June, 1806.

LONDON FASHIONS *for* JULY.

A Round dress of white muslin, the bottom finished with lace, or work; long sleeves; a long cloak of lilac silk,

trimmed all round with white lace; a quilling of white net round the neck. A round straw hat. Lilac shoes. York tan gloves.

A long dress of white muslin, with long sleeves of spider net; a cloak of worked leno, lined with coloured silk. A gypsey hat of checquered ribbon. White parasol.

A dress of white muslin, with a spencer of blue silk, the fronts made with points, and finished with tassels. A gypsey hat of white silk, tied under the chin with blue ribbon; a blue flower in front.

A dress of thick white muslin; a scarf cloak of green silk, trimmed with white lace. A bonnet of white muslin.

A long dress of white muslin; the bosom made quite plain, with lace let in round the front, to form a tucker. A pelisse of leno, or picquet lined with straw-coloured silk. A turban hat of open straw.

A walking dress of white muslin: the front made high over the bosom, and formed to the shape. A very long veil embroidered all round, and put on to form both veil and cloak.

A dress of white muslin, with a cloak of leno, trimmed all round with puckered ribbon; the hood full, and trimmed the same as the cloak. A small round bonnet of silk, the colour to correspond with the trimming of the cloak.

A cloak made of white muslin, or leno, trimmed all round with puffings of muslin; a small hood trimmed to correspond. A gypsey bonnet of white muslin and lace; a silk handkerchief pinned to the top of the crown, and tied under the chin.

A dress of fine worked muslin, or leno, over an under dress of sarsnet; the train very long; turban sleeves, very short. White kid gloves and shoes. The hair dressed in the most fashionable style, and ornamented with a medallion.

A dress of white muslin, embroidered round the bottom, and finished with small tucks. A long Spanish cloak of leno, or muslin, lined with straw-coloured silk, and trimmed with white lace. The cloak made with arm-holes. The hair dressed, and ornamented with a wreath of small flowers.

General Observations.

The prevailing colours are pale pink, lilac, and straw. Morning dresses are made a walking length, and trimmed round the bottom with lace, or work. The fronts are formed to the bosom, with lace, or work let in as fancy may direct; long sleeves, plain, or corresponding with the fronts. For dress the trains are made remarkably long, and trimmed in every direction with lace; the bodies are so small, that they are almost all lace, the backs being made very low, and the waist very short;

the sleeves very short, with lace let in across to form a diamond. Fancy silk hats and bonnets, trimmed with flowers or feathers, are more worn than straw. The long Spanish cloaks are so prevalent that scarcely any thing else is to be seen. The mob cap, lined with coloured silk, and ornamented with bows of ribbon, or flowers, continue to be much worn in morning dress.

Observations on the present and future State of Existence.

[From a Letter written by the late Dr. Benjamin Franklin.]

DEAR OLD FRIEND, *Passy, May* 23, 1785.

I Sent you a few lines the other day, with the medallion, when I should have written more, but was prevented by the coming in of a *bavard*, who worried me 'till evening. I bore with him, and now you are to bear with me, for I shall probably *bavarder* in answering your letter.

I am not acquainted with the saying of Alphonsus, which you allude to as a sanctification of your rigidity in refusing to allow me the plea of old age as an excuse for my want of exactitude in correspondence. What was that saying? You do not, it seems, feel any occasion for such an excuse, though you are as you say rising 75, but I am rising (perhaps more properly falling) 80— and I leave the excuse with you 'till you arrive at that age; perhaps you may then be more sensible of its validity, and see fit to use it for yourself.

I must agree with you that the gout is bad, and that the stone is worse; I am happy in not having them both together, and I join in your prayer that you may live 'till you die without either. But I doubt the author of the epitaph you sent me is a little mistaken; when speaking of the world, he says that

"He ne'er car'd a pin
What they said or may say of the mortal within."

It is so natural to wish to be well spoken of, whether alive or dead, that I imagine he could not be quite exempt from that desire, and that at least he wished to be thought a wit, or he would not have given himself the trouble of writing so good an epitaph to leave behind him. Was it not worthy of his care, that the world should say he was an honest and a good man? I like better the concluding sentiment in the old song called "the old man's wish*," wherein after wishing for a warm house in

* By Dr. Pope, printed in Nichol's Collection.

in a country town, an easy horse, some good old authors, ingenious and cheerful companions, pudding on Sundays, with stout ale and a bottle of Burgundy, &c. &c. in separate stanzas, each ending with this burthen:

"May I govern my passions with absolute sway,
And grow wiser and better as strength wears away,
Without gout or stone by a gentle decay."

He adds for the last stanza:

"With courage undaunted may I face my last day,
And when I am gone may the better sort say,
In the morning when sober, in the evening when mellow,
He's gone—and not left behind him his fellow.
For he govern'd his passions," &c.

What signifies our wishing? things happen after all as they will happen. I have sung that wishing song a thousand times when I was young, and now find at fourscore that the three contraries have befallen me, being subject to the gout, and the stone, and not being yet master of all my passions. Like the proud girl in my country, who wished and resolved not to marry a parson, nor a presbyterian, nor an Irishman, and at length found herself married to an Irish presbyterian parson! You see I have some reason to wish that in a future state I may not only be as well as I was, but a little better. And I hope it: for I too, with your poet, trust in God. And when I observe that there is great frugality as well as wisdom in his works, since he has been evidently sparing both of labour and materials; for by the various wonderful inventions of propagation he has provided for the continual peopling his world with plants and animals, without being at the trouble of repeated new creations; and by the natural reduction of compound substances to their original elements, capable of being employed in new compositions, he has prevented the necessity of creating new matter; for that the earth, water, air, and perhaps fire, which being compounded, form wood, do when the wood is dissolved, return and again become air, earth, fire, and water; I say, that when I see nothing annihilated, and not even a drop of water wasted, I cannot suspect the annihilation of souls, or believe that he will suffer the daily waste of millions of minds ready made that now exist, and put himself to the continual trouble of making new ones. Thus finding myself to exist in the world, I believe I shall in some shape or other always exist. And with all the inconveniences human life is liable to, I shall

not object to a new edition of mine; hoping, however, that the errata of the last may be corrected*.

Your's very affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

* This appears to have been a favourite allusion with Dr. Franklin. In the beginning of his life, written by himself, supposing it possible to pass his time over again, he says, "All I would ask should be the privilege of an author, to correct, in a second edition, certain errors of the first." And in his well-known epitaph, which he wrote many years before his death, he describes himself as a work which "will appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by the author."

INTERESTING TRIAL.

COURT of KING's BENCH,

Westminster, July 3.

Sittings at Nisi Prius, before Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough, and a Special Jury.

MARY MEAGHER *v.* JOHN MOORE.

THE plaintiff is a widow lady, resident in Grosvenor-row, Chelsea: the defendant is an attorney. This was an action for special damages, in consequence of slanderous words.

Mr. Garrow said, that this lady had to complain of an injury of a most serious nature, which rendered it necessary that she should resort to this court to receive justice from the verdict of an English jury: she was a woman of great respectability, but of small fortune, and having taken up some money on an annuity, from a gentleman of the name of Wattie, the amount was called in, and she was directed to pay it into the hands of the defendant, who is an attorney of the court. To facilitate this repayment it became necessary for her to borrow a sum of 40l. and, for this purpose, she availed herself of the official character of the defendant. In pursuance of this business, she had several interviews with the defendant, who one evening called at the unseasonable hour of ten o'clock. The lady expressed some surprise at this unusual visit; on which Mr. Moore said, that he came for some person's address, and without any explanation withdrew. A short time afterwards he made another visit at the same hour, and when this lady was under the most pressing calamity from the recent loss of her only son, to whom the care of her life had been principally devoted. After some reluctance on her part, which she expressed

expressed to Mrs. Tadwell, with whom she lived, she was at last persuaded to attend to the business on which the young lawyer professed to come.

[Mr. Garrow here explained what passed, which we shall prefer stating from the mouth of the witness.] He then proceeded:

If a woman were called as many wh—s as the most active volubility of tongue could pronounce, during her progress from Westminster-Hall to St. Giles's, it would be no ground for an action, unless it was shown, that some injury had resulted to her from such defamation. He had said, that her fortune was small, and it was yet more reduced by her assiduous attention to her dying child. There were persons of considerable rank and of great humanity, (he was sorry he could not call Lady Peachey, who was confined from the best cause), who afforded the plaintiff an asylum in the most delicate way, receiving her as a visitor, the immediate object, at the same time, being to assist her under the embarrassment she suffered from a contracted income. This was not an extraordinary case; many clergymen's widows, and others, were sometimes accommodated, by the friendship of the higher orders of society, in a way to relieve their difficulties without wounding their sensibility. The foundation of the action was, that many respectable persons had been induced to withdraw their assistance and protection, in consequence of this calumny. His lordship would recollect an action for slander of this kind before Lord Kenyon, in consequence of which a gentleman had been disappointed of marriage with a certain lady. The lady was called as a witness; and he was asked, if she thought unfavourably of the gentleman from the report of which he complained? To this she replied, that she had a very high opinion of him before, and that she had then a very high opinion of him, as far as she could trust her own judgement. It was then inquired, "Do you intend to marry him as soon as the cause is over?" To this she answered, "I have not made up my mind upon the subject; my determination will depend upon the verdict." The chief justice was clearly of opinion, that she acted prudently in not marrying a man, against whom such a calumny had gone forth, until his character should be cleared by the verdict of a jury: he said, her reason was perfectly just and honourable, and that he liked her testimony the better for this proof of her discretion. The jury would see, that the friends of the plaintiff exercised the like prudence, and they would be disposed to give the witnesses the same credit which Lord Kenyon had dispensed on the occasion to which he had referred.

Mrs. Elizabeth Tadwell deposed, that, when the defendant came on the second night, he was ushered into the drawing-room;

room; that after some time the plaintiff gave an alarm, on which the witness ran up stairs, and heard the following words from the defendant, which he repeated many times over: "You want to make a job of me, but I am too high for you. This is because I would not give her 40l. she has been begging 40l. of me. I have kissed her, it is true, a hundred times before, at her house in Knightsbridge. She has locked me up there in her house until three or four o'clock in the morning, and put the key in her pocket. She has been in all the newspapers, and has lured me up here to extort money from me." Mrs. Meagher observed, "You have no proof of that." To which he replied, "I can call your maid to prove it." The plaintiff then said, "Give me a receipt, and take your money, and be gone:" to which the defendant answered, "I have got no receipt, I did not come for money, I will never receive another shilling of your money, and I will let Mr. Wattie know how ill I have been treated."

Mrs. De Brieue, who keeps a boarding-house for the young gentlemen of Westminster-school, and Mr. Hamilton, a builder, in Sloane-street, Chelsea, and his wife, all deposed to their readiness to receive the plaintiff into their families without any expence to herself, and to their intention to have done so, if her character had not been injured by the report resulting from that interview with the defendant.

Sir Vicary Gibbs, for the defendant, argued, that if the plaintiff had suffered any thing from the words employed, it arose entirely from the circulation of the story by the plaintiff and her friend Mrs. Tadwell. It had been truly said, that the words themselves were not actionable, and all that could be claimed, was merely the expence she would have saved by the occasional dinners of which she might have partaken from the bounty of two of the witnesses.

Lord Ellenborough, after stating the parties to the action, said, "The object is to recover a compensation in damages, for the loss the plaintiff says she has sustained, in consequence of the defamatory expressions; and it has been represented, that she has not been invited to the houses of certain of the witnesses, whose kindnesses have been discontinued, on account of a report so unfavourable to her reputation. You have been rightly told, that this is not an action for the words themselves: but if the words produce any detriment to the party to whom they are applied, the detriment so accruing is the subject of an action, and you may give a verdict to the extent of the injury actually sustained. Some personal violence has been alluded to, but in the present case, you cannot take this into your consideration, because it would be the proper subject of an action of trespass, or of an indictment, and then the offender would have been punished by the criminal law of the country.

country. The whole inquiry, therefore, before you is, the extent of the injury she has sustained by the suspension of these acts of kindness, and you will likewise take into your view, how far she and her friend, Mrs. Tadwell, may have been instrumental in producing this disadvantageous effect. I think her friends have acted discreetly, in forbearing to receive her, until her name be rescued from this calumny. What then is the measure of the damage? It seems that, from September, 1804, to the date of this record, in June, 1805, the plaintiff might have been received into the house of one or more of these friends, free of expence, either for the whole or a part of that interval. You will consider the matter, and apportion your verdict with the fit regard to those considerations."

Verdict for the plaintiff—100l.

EARLY USE OF SUGAR.

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

THERE is great reason to believe, that not only the juice of the sugar cane, but sugar itself was used by the ancients, and likewise that the manner of boiling the syrup was well known. To illustrate this, I will transcribe a few observations which I have long had by me, containing passages, from many authors, relating to this subject; observing first, that it appears to have been chiefly employed by them for medicinal virtues.

I do not imagine that the Jewish nation were acquainted with this substance in its concrete state: but the mention of sweet cane by Isaiah, would lead us to suppose that the sugar-cane either grew in Judea, or was brought thither from other countries. This, I believe, is the only passage of scripture in which mention is made of it.

The Greeks, it is probable, acquired their knowledge of this plant at the time of Alexander's expedition to the east; as Nearchus, who followed that prince to the Indies, tells us, (as quoted by Strabo) that he there saw canes producing a sweet juice. Dioscorides likewise, writing on the subject of honey, mentions one root, which (he says) was procured from reeds which grew in India: this he speaks of as a concrete substance, very brittle, and to appearance like salt; and this, he tell us, was called saccharon, and he afterwards mentions its medicinal virtues. A great many of the Latin authors, and among the rest Lucan, speak of a sweet juice, expressed from reeds growing in India. But Pliny, it appears, was better acquainted with

the subject, as he speaks of it as a substance, very sweet, called saccharum; one sort came from Arabia, he says, but the best from India. He describes it as a kind of white gum, which when bitten by the teeth, is found to be very brittle. Aphrodisæus also mentions the same, and appears to have been very well acquainted with this article. Arrian mentions honey procured from reeds as an article of commerce in the Red Sea; this he calls by the name of sacchar.

These authorities, I think, are sufficient to prove that the ancients were acquainted with sugar. It appears that they knew not only whence it came, and from what it was procured, but also that they were well acquainted with its medicinal virtues, which are even now acknowledged to be considerable. As to the art of boiling the syrup produced from the cane, 'till it coagulates into the form of sugar, as we at present have it, they certainly were not entirely ignorant of it. Statius, in Silo, aludes very plainly to this practice, as Stephanus, in his Thesaurus, allows.

It is most probable that some of the ancient authors of the east contain more information on the subject, and it would gratify many of your readers to have further light thrown upon the matter.

Your humble servant,

X. C.

DESCRIPTION *of* PAPENBURG.

THE town of Papenburg, which has of late been so frequently mentioned, and which is not to be found in Busching, or any other geography, is situated on the southern frontier of the principality of East Friesland, and the northern frontier of the county of Munster, one mile eastward of the Ems, and five from Embden, and consequently lies, the greatest part, in the Prussian territory, and the smallest in that of Munster. It belongs to the baron of Landsberg Veelen. One hundred and twenty four years ago, this spot was a marshy waste. One of the ancestors of the present proprietors resolved to settle a colony there, for the purpose of making turf. He accordingly dug a navigable canal from the Ems to the place now called Papenburg, and an abundance of people immediately flocked to inhabit this country. The town contains, at present, two churches, 400 houses, and 3000 souls. It possesses 160 vessels, the largest carrying 160 lasts, and about 100 small craft, which carry turf to East Friesland, Jever, Bremen, and Hamburg. There are 19 yards for ship building, in each of which, from 12 to 15 carpenters are employed.

REFLECTION.

AN even temper is a valuable blessing. When assisted by religion, they will conjointly form the best barrier against the worst evils of this transitory life.

CHRISTIAN LOVE.

IN the pursuit of all moral and religious knowledge, whatever is not founded in principle is not necessary to the promotion of goodness and of happiness. The Christian religion is founded on the principle of love. If it can be proved that no such principle exists, the Christian system must inevitably fall to the ground. That the professors of Christianity do not act in conformity to the influence of this principle does not prove that the principle itself is either false or defective.

Those opinions of love which are subject and conformable to its principle are pure, sincere, just, dignified, and powerfully instrumental in promoting universal harmony and happiness; while those opinions arising from the same affection that are casually, promiscuously, methodically, or systematically imbibed by education; influenced by the habits of society, and the customs and fashions of the age; or by the zealous and persevering exertions, entreaties, and perswasions of particular sects, descriptions, and denominations of Christians; although they may be productive of some good, unless they are made referable to principles for the purposes of correction and modification, cannot be otherwise than calculated to produce much evil. But for such references, sentiment originally founded in principle would be involved in the errors of opinion, and despoiled of her most salutary effects.

A QUESTION, *by Isaac Gumley.*

THE following equations, ye artists, explore,
What wise men deem useful, and boobies adore;
For this* the smooth orator lets out his tongue,
And strives to convince us that right is quite wrong;
For this the fair ladies, so well form'd to please,
Resign all their charms to old age and disease.

$$\text{Given } x+y+v+z=36$$
$$x^2+y^2+v^2+z^2=382$$
$$xyzv=4312$$
$$xy+zv=142$$

Where x, y, v, z, denote the places of the letters in the alphabet, composing the word* required.

Answer, by J. Whittle, of Upway, to W. Mann's Charade, inserted May 12.

THE parts combin'd a MAIN-SPRING's found,
And that's the whole I will be bound.

☞ We have received similar answers from W. D. and W. Cross, of Bristol; W. Bickham, of Ashburton; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Butler, of Wellington; J. Badcock; H. Stoneman, and R. I. Paget, of Exeter; John Gidley, of Dean Prior; J. L. of Sidmouth; P. Ninnis, of Tavistock; William Pollard, of Egloshayle; W. D of Bridgewater; William Richards, of Yealmpton; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; J. Fairweather, of Barson, near Kingsbridge; H. Glasson, Praze; M. Duncan, of Plymouth; S. C. Moore, of Horswell-House; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; and R. Trewavas, jun. of Mousehole.

Answer, by John Woodman, of North Curry, to Eliza's Charade, inserted May 19.

'TIS by your lines I understand,
That LANDGRAVE is the title grand.

*** Similar answers have been received from W. D. of Bristol; W. Bickham, of Ashburton; J. Badcock; W. D. C. of Bridgewater; W. Sparks, of Ufculm; P C. of Dean Prior; H. Glasson, of Praze; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; William Varco, of Mevagissey; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; S. C. Moore, of Horswell-House; and J. S. Scanes, of Sidmouth.

A REBUS, *by W. Richards, of Yealmpton.*

AMYTHAON's son you'll first unfold,
Who knew birds' languages 'tis told;
Pomona's treasure next pray trace;
And then what still rolls on apace;
A mount near Troy, that place of fame;
A Caledonian king you'll name;
Chief of the beauteous warbling train,
My last will certainly explain:
Connect these parts, they'll bring to view
What earth and seas are subject to.

An ENIGMA, *by R. Trewavas, Jun. of Mousehole.*

WHEN summer shews its smiling face,
And plains are deck'd with Flora's race,
I'm seen to gambol, sport, and play,
When night doth close the parting day;
But soon, alas! those sports are o'er:
Compell'd to leave my native shore,
I fruitless strive my life to save,
But fall a victim to the wave:
When shifting breezes blow on land,
I'm driven on the ebbing strand;
There, cheer'd by Sol's all-cheering ray,
I wing each sail, and soar away;
Borne by the blast, then mount on high,
Again to suffer, droop, and die.

☞ *Several pieces of poetry are received, and are under consideration.*
*** *Answers to questions, enigmas, &c. &c. are requested to be sent with them.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SUMMER.—*A* SONNET.

BRIGHT summer comes, with his refulgent train,
And claims, as spring retires, the rule supreme;
While Phœbus darts his most resplendent beams
O'er lawns and woodlands, mountains, dales,, and plains.

Soft o'er th' extended landscape now are seen
Innumerous vernant beauties round display'd:
Fair meads and fields with blooming flowers array'd,
'Neath azure skies, without a cloud between.

The sylvan choir through the plains and groves,
Their songs attune from morning's beaming hour,
'Till eve's approach: when from th' umbrageous bower
To peaceful vales calm meditation roves

Th' enrapt'ring scene with sweet delight enjoys,
And on exalted themes her noblet powers employs.

Taunton. PRIMROSE.

MY WEDDING GOWN.

THIS gift I prize all things above,
'Twas given me by the man I love,
An emblem of his mind;
'Tis pure and spotless as the truth
That fills the bosom of the youth
For whom my hand's design'd.

My wedding gown! Oh! charming thought;
With needle-work 'tis finely wrought,
And white as driven snow:
At death may we as spotless rise,
Then we'll ascend the azure skies,
And leave this world below.

Since fate propitious has design'd
Our hands with wedlock's tie to bind,
May love our hearts unite!
While thus our minds in union move,
We'll sweeten ev'ry care with love—
'Twill make life's burden light.

MATILDA.

Lines written on the Gates of Bologna, much admired by Travellers.

WHAT, if the stateliest buildings were thy own?
What, if the choicest fruits thy table crown?
If thou hast heaps on heaps of gold in store,
And each succeeding year still adding more?

What,

What, if thou had'd the fairest, kindest wife,
To be the sweet companion of thy life;
If thou art blest with sons, a large estate,
And all around magnificent and great;
What if thou'rt comely, valiant, rich, and strong,
And teachest others in each art, each tongue;
If thou hast numerous servants at command,
All things in store, and ready at thy hand;
If thou wert king, commander of a nation,
Full thousand happy years without vexation;
If fortune rais'd thee to the highest strain
Of grandeur, wealth, and dignity—what then?
Soon, very soon, all ends, and comes to nought;
Virtue's alone the greatest glory sought.
Obey th' Almighty's will—from hence arise
All happiness within; in this all glory lies.

J. M.

TO SUSAN.

[Partly imitated from Tibullus.]

OH Susan! fairest, gentlest of thy kind,
Accept the homage of a faithful mind;
I love but thee alone, alone in thee,
Beauty or merit, sense or charms can see;
And, Oh! that thou wert fair to me alone,
Displeasing to all eyes beside mine own.
Let envious throngs elate the foolish heart,
T' enjoy unenvy'd is the wise man's part:
Content I'd dwell beneath the forest's shade,
Where never yet the foot of man has stray'd,
So thou, fair maid, wouldst share my lot, and be
A world amid th' unpeopled waste to me.

JUVENIS.

The MISANTHROPE.

WELCOME thou blasting storm!
That, bursting, wrecks the peasant's humble hope,
Thou show'st me nature in congenial form,
And rend'st a world to joy a misanthrope.

Each fire-flash transport gives,
And dark delight each thundering peal inspires;
It seems as Hell was swallowing all that lives,
And gulphing nature in eternal fires.

Yet once this bosom glow'd,
With ev'ry generous impulse youth can raise,
Fresh blooming hope illumin'd life's dark road,
And smiling pleasures seem'd to court my ways.

But soon the tempest's gloom
In leaden clouds enwrapt each joy-gilt scene;
Smooth fawning treachery lur'd me to my doom,
And stamp'd my curse on all the sons of men!

Power of the blasting storms!
Pour on each mortal head the lightning's rage!
Give nature to her elemental forms,
And blot the world from thy recording page!